

Message Text

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TAGS: EEC

SUBJECT: THE EC COMMISSION REPORT ON EUROPEAN UNION: DEFENSE
POLICY

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 5745

(B) EC BRUSSELS 5853

(C) EC BRUSSELS 6157

1. THE EC COMMISSION'S SUMMARY VERSION OF ITS REPORT ON
EUROPEAN UNION (REF B) EXPRESSED THE COMMISSION'S VIEW THAT
ULTIMATELY A EUROPEAN UNION CANNOT AVOID COMING TO GRIPS WITH
THE PROBLEM OF DEFENSE, NOTING HOWEVER THAT INTEGRATION IN
THE DEFENSE FIELD WILL DEPEND AND FOLLOW ON PROGRESS
IN THE FIELD OF FOREIGN POLICY AND IN STRENGTHENING THE COMMUNITY'S
OVERALL SOLIDARITY.

2. THE MISSION HAS NOW RECEIVED AND IS TRANSMITTING THE FULL
VERSION OF THE COMMISSION'S REPORT. IN ADDITION TO POINTING
OUT THAT THE "ATLANTIC ALLIANCE IS AND WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY
A DECISIVE ROLE IN THE SECURITY OF WESTERN EUROPE," THE REPORTS
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MAKES THE FOLLOWING FURTHER POINTS ON DEFENSE:

A. ONE WAY OF TAKING ACCOUNT OF DEFENSE MATTERS WHEN THE EUROPEAN UNION IS ESTABLISHED WOULD BE TO MAKE DEFENSE A FIELD OF "POTENTIAL COMPETENCE" FOR THE UNION (THUS THE UNION WOULD HAVE NO POWERS OR MEANS OF ACTION IN DEFENSE MATTERS AT THE OUTSET: THEIR ELABORATION WOULD BE LEFT TO SOME UNSPECIFIED PROCEDURE IN THE FUTURE).

B. ALIGNMENT OF MEMBER STATES' DEFENSE POLICIES WOULD BE DESIRABLE EVEN OUTSIDE THE FRAMEWORK OF THE TREATY OF EUROPEAN UNION AND MIGHT EVEN FACILITATE CREATION OF THE UNION. AS WAYS OF ACHIEVING THIS "ALIGNMENT," THE COMMISSION FORESEES:

- 1) PERIODIC DISCUSSION ON DEFENSE PROBLEMS AND THE DEFENSE EFFORT;
- 2) "SYSTEMATIC COMPARISON OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING OF THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES WITH THE AIM OF ARRIVING AT A COMMON VIEW, TAKING ACCOUNT OF ANY SPECIFIC INTERESTS OF EUROPE"; AND
- 3) THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMON POLICY ON ARMS AND EQUIPMENT, "POSSIBLY INVOLVING THE SETTING UP OF A 'EUROPEAN ARMS AGENCY,'

WHICH WOULD BRING ABOUT A MORE RATIONAL USE OF THE AVAILABLE FUNDS AND THE INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL POTENTIAL OF THE MEMBER STATES." IN THIS CONNECTION, THE COMMISSION OBSERVES THAT THE LACK OF A COMMON POLICY ON ARMS PRODUCTION HAS LED TO EXCESSIVE DEPENDENCE ON SOURCES OUTSIDE THE COMMUNITY AND ADVERSELY AFFECTS "EUROPE'S SCOPE FOR INDEPENDENCE."

3. COMMENT: AS WE OBSERVED IN REF B, THE COMMISSION'S REPORT WAS CONCEIVED AS A CONTRIBUTION TO AN ONGOING DEBATE (MANDATED BY THE 1972 PARIS SUMMIT) ON WHAT A FUTURE EUROPEAN UNION MIGHT LOOK LIKE. IT IS NOT REGARDED AS A BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE; THE COMMISSION OBSERVES THAT IT HAS LIMITED ITSELF TO WHAT SHOULD AND COULD BE THE ELEMENTS OF UNION IN CERTAIN FIELDS. ALTHOUGH THE COMMISSION REPORT PUTS DEFENSE POLICY EVEN FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD AS A "POTENTIAL COMPETENCE" OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, ITS INCLUSION EVEN IN THIS CONTEXT WAS NOT WELCOMED BY ALL THE COMMISSIONERS. (REF C)
MYERSON

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